

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9. Applicant has amended claims 1-9, and the title of the invention. Claims 1-9 are currently pending. No new matter is presented.

Rejection pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, contending that the claims were indefinite. The features cited by the Examiner have either been removed or amended to clarify the claimed invention and to ensure proper antecedent basis. Applicant notes that, while claims 1, 7, and 9 were included in this rejection, the Examiner provided no discussion of how these claims were indefinite. Nevertheless, claims 1, 7, and 9 have also been amended to clarify the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Price (Re. 35,010). Applicant traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Price discloses a dispensing system with only one discharge nozzle. The system is capable of controlling the amount of fluid applied to a workpiece per unit of lineal distance along a bead pattern, despite rapid changes in the relative speed between the robot and the workpiece (col. 3, lines 14-19). The system controls the amount of fluid by utilizing the dispenser in a close-loop control system. A control current is derived from the difference between the pressure signal (which is correlated with the instantaneous flow rate of the dispensed fluid) and a driving signal representing a desired flow (col. 3, lines 42-51). The driving signal is apparently built

from an appropriated set of pre-programmed constants and the tool-speed. At the beginning of the process the set of pre-programmed constants and a set point are initialized and stored in a controller (col. 9, lines 67, to col. 10, line 23).

Price, however, does not disclose

determining (a) an equilibration value from the measurement values and
(b) a permissible band of tolerance for the equilibration value;

adjusting up or down the control value of any dispensing channel whose measurement value is above or below the band of tolerance for the equilibration value;

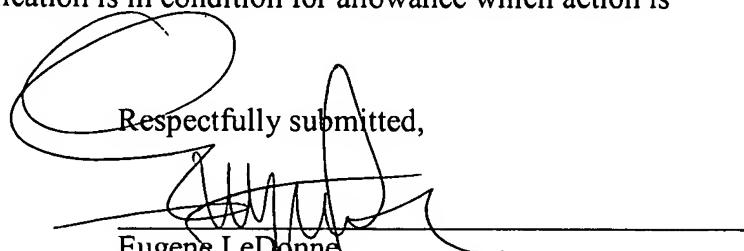
as provided by amended claim 1. Specifically, Price does not disclose determining an equilibration value from measurement values, or adjusting the control values of dispensing channels whose measurement values fall outside the band of tolerance for the equilibration value.

The Examiner contends that “Price … teaches determining an equilibrium value from the measurement values and a permissible band of tolerance for measurement values. (See Col. 23-38.)” Applicant assumes that the Examiner refers to column 10, lines 23-38, of Price. The cited portions discuss a “flow compensation factor (FCF) … which compensates for changes in the flow characteristics” The FCF, however, is not an equilibration value and does not enable adjustment to an equilibration value. “The FCF is defined as a factor by which the linearized toolspeed signal must be multiplied so that the total volume of fluid dispensed onto a workpiece 39 is substantially equal to the selected setpoint.” (Column 10, lines 29-33.) Thus, the FCF can change the toolspeed, and thereby change the fluid volume. But the fluid volume is changed “to the selected setpoint.”

The equilibration value, on the other hand, is a unique value determined “from the measurement values.” Measurements are initially taken, an equilibration value is determined,

and then the dispensing channel output is adjusted to ensure that subsequent measurements correspond to the equilibration value. Price provides a system for adjusting a single dispensing channel to a selected setpoint, not for adjusting multiple dispensing channels to an equilibration value newly determined from previous measurement values. For these reasons, Price does not disclose all the elements of claim 1 or dependent claims 2-8, nor does it render those claims obvious. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

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